

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

EAST, JR., ET AL.

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Group Art Unit: **3672**

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Serial No.: **10/727,453**

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Examiner: **SMITH, MATTHEW J.**

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Filed: **DECEMBER 4, 2003**

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Title: **"METHOD OF OPTIMIZING
PRODUCTION OF GAS FROM
VERTICAL WELLS IN COAL SEAMS"**

§

Atty. Docket No: **HES 2003-IP-011867U1**

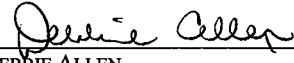
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MPEP 503

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE A REASONABLE BASIS FOR BELIEF THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE VIA EFS (ELECTRONICALLY) ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW, AND IS ADDRESSED TO:

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P.O. Box 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450


DEBBIE ALLEN

OCTOBER 31, 2007

DATE OF SUBMISSION: OCTOBER 31, 2007
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**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION AND
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114**

Dear Honorable Commissioner:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 24, 2007, (the "Final Office Action"), Applicants respectfully submit a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 with the following remarks and amendments set forth below and request favorable action thereon.

This request is being submitted before: (i) the abandonment of this application; (ii) payment of the issue fee; (iii) the filing of a notice of appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; or (iv) the commencement of a civil action under 35 U.S.C. § 145 or 35 U.S.C. § 146.

In response to the Final Office Action, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action in light of the amendments and remarks below.

- **Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper; and
- **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.